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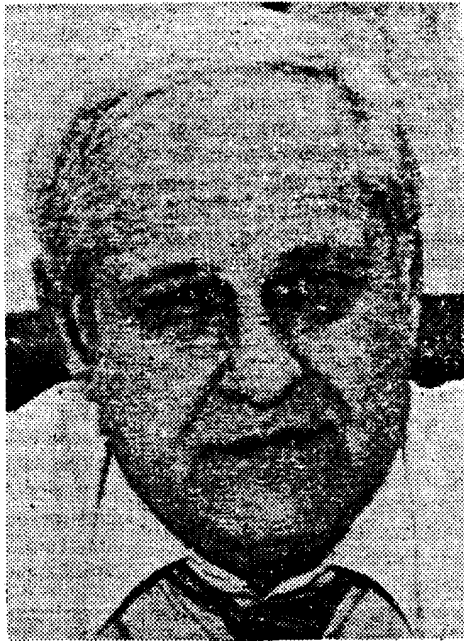
Personalities

By Chuck Conconi
Washington Post Staff Writer

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist **Jack Anderson** has named two of his top investigative reporters to be the heirs apparent to his column. The 62-year-old Anderson, who has no intention of retiring anytime soon, made the announcement yesterday in a column published by his subscribers, which number about 900. He said **Dale van Atta**, a name familiar to column readers, will take over the leadership of the column. He will share the byline four times a week with Anderson. Three days a week, Anderson will share the byline with **Joseph Spear**, another long-time veteran of his 12-member editorial staff.

Anderson inherited the column in 1967 at the death of **Drew Pearson**, who founded it in 1931. Anderson became Pearson's legman in 1947 and labored for him for nearly 20 years before Pearson finally shared the byline credit. The frustration of that experience made Anderson, who, like Pearson, has become wealthy through the column, listen with more sympathy to requests that he share the recognition. Anderson's empire includes the title of Washington bureau chief of *Parade* magazine, as well as regular radio and television shows. His speaking engagements alone are estimated to bring him about \$250,000 a year.

In the early 1970s, Anderson designated well-established and highly respected investigative reporter **Les Whitten** as his heir and shared a byline with him for four of the nearly eight years Whitten was with the column full time. However, Whitten, who became successful with his fiction, decided he would relinquish the fame associated with the column to write novels full time. He still helps Anderson out one day a week.



JACK ANDERSON